Export of opium

1262. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that US has drastically reduced opium import from India :

(b) if so, the comparative figures for 1990, 1991 and so far in 1992;

(c) whether Government are considering any changes in the system of captive farming of poppy cultivation;

(d) whether export of opium to other countries is on the rise, if so, the figures for the last three years in case of each country; and

(e) what steps are envisaged to check pilferage at source in opium production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) to (e) The figures of export of opium from India to the United States and other countries during the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 (Upto October/92) are as under :—

	1990-91 MT		1991-92 MT		1992-93 (upto 10/92) MT	
	Cash	Barter	Cash	Barter	Cash	Barter
U.S.A.	370	70	360.36	45	180.52	17.28
U.K	140	9	7.00	36	20.00	—
Japan	62	—	85.00	—	55.00	—
France	43.84	—	13.92	—	—	—
Germany	—	—	2.10	—	—	—
U.S.S.R.	150.00	—	—	—	—	—
Turkey	5.00	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL . .	770.84	79	536.38	81	255.52	17.28

The above figures would indicate that United States has not drastically reduced the opium import from India and that the export of opium to Japan has increased during the last three years. Export of opium to earstwhile U.S.S.R. has not, however, taken place since the political changes took place in that country.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to change the existed system of opium cultivation by licensed cultivators in vogue at present.

To check pilferage of opium, drug enforcement agencies exercise strict vigil during lancing and collection of opium. Stringent penal measures have also been provided for pilferage under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.

Ban on automatic conversion of rupee

1263. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Financial Institutions have demanded either to ban or restrict the facility of automatic conversion of rupee for import of capital goods under the Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.